

REMARKS

Applicants have reviewed the outstanding official action. It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Claims 9 and 14 have been stated to be allowed.

The outstanding rejections based on art are as follows:

- (1) Claims 1-8, 10, 11, 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over SU 744,285 (SU '285) or WO 98/04355 A1 (WO '355) in view of U.S. Reissue Patent No. 33,524 (Schram);
- (2) Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over SU '285 with or without WO '355 or Schram; and
- (3) Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over WO '355.

Claims 1-8, 10, 11, 13 and 15 are now canceled. Thus, the above rejections based on art are rendered moot. The sole pending claims are now allowed claims 9 and 14.

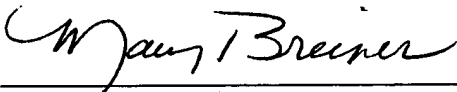
Accordingly, reconsideration and formal allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants are submitting herewith a Supplemental Application Data Sheet. Applicants advise that small entity status is being claimed. The assignee, University of Wales, Bangor is a non-profit institution.

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Group Art Unit 1753

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment - Supplemental Application Data Sheet